

Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON I.

JULY 1st, 1894.

3rd QUARTER.

The Birth of Jesus. Luke 2: 1-16.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Unto us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 11.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 10-14. **CHILDREN'S HYMNAL** 17, 18, 211, 20.

PROVE THAT—Jesus is the promised Messiah. Acts 17: 3.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 82. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH
Luke 2: 1-16.	Isa. 9: 1-6.	Isa. 40: 1-11.	Jno. 1: 1-14.	1 Tim. 1: 12-17	2 Tim. 1: 1-10.	1 Jno. 4: 9-14.

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—We begin to-day a study of the whole life of Christ. It will occupy a year and a half, and should fill every one of us with increased admiration of the wonderful Saviour. It should help us to understand him better and love him more. Before you begin, ask him to help you to study every lesson well, and to make you more like himself. Be sure and read the whole story from the beginning, including John 1: 1-18; Luke 1: 1-80; and Matt. 1: 1-25.

The Roman Empire then embraced the whole known world. Rome itself was a city of about 6,000,000 inhabitants, and more wealthy and magnificent than London. Jerusalem had a population of more than 2,500,000.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Infant Saviour. vs. 1-7. II. The Angels' Song. vs. 8-14. III. The Shepherds' Visit. vs. 15, 16.

I. THE INFANT SAVIOUR. 1. In those days—The calculations of Dionysius, a Roman abbot, surnamed "exiguus," or "the little," have been universally accepted throughout Christendom. These were published in A. D. 526 and by them the date of our Saviour's birth was fixed in the year of Rome 754. It is now generally acknowledged that this date is four years astray, and should have been A. U. C. 750. **Decree**—Greek "dogma." **Caesar Augustus**—The Roman emperor. His name was Octavianus, but he assumed the title "Augustus," or "the august," in compliment to his own greatness. Our month *August* is named from him, as *July* from his uncle Julius Caesar. **All the world**—R. V. marg. "the inhabited earth." This must refer to the whole Roman empire and not merely to Palestine. The emperors were called "lords of the inhabited world," and the empire was said to be "orbis terrarum." The Greek word here is that from which "ecumenical" comes. **Taxed**—R. V. "enrolled." The word means "to write off," or "enter in a list." It was a general census of the empire, taken for purposes of taxation or ambition, and therefore distasteful to the Jews both on patriotic and religious grounds. It has been objected that no such decree was issued at this time since we have no mention of it elsewhere. But (1) Luke wrote near the time and he would not have made such a glaring misstatement of fact, it would have been at once contradicted; (2) he has been proved to be singularly accurate in points in which at one time he was thought to have been in error, e. g. calling the magistrates of Thessalonica *Pollitarchs* (Acts 17: 6); (3) the political records of the time are very imperfect, but we know that Augustus frequently called for statistical returns; (4) the early defenders of Christianity refer to census lists made by Quirinus when first procurator and challenge their

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